

*For he has said this somewhere about the seventh day, "God rested on the seventh day from all his works;" and in this place again, "**They will not enter into my rest.**" Seeing therefore it remains that **some should enter therein**, and they to whom **the good news was before preached failed to enter in** because of **disobedience**, he again defines a certain day, today, saying through David so long a time afterward (just as has been said), "Today if you will hear his voice, **don't harden your hearts.**" (Hebrews 4:4-7)*

*Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God's **kindness is meant to lead you to repentance**? But by your **hard and impenitent heart** you are **storing up wrath** for yourself on the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. (Romans 2:4-5 NRSV)*

*Show us your loving kindness, Yahweh. Grant us your salvation. I will hear what God, Yahweh, will speak, for **he will speak peace to his people, his saints**; but let them not turn again to **folly**. (Psalms 85:7-8)*

*There **remains** therefore a Sabbath **rest for the people of God**. For he who has **entered into his rest** has himself also rested from his works, **as God did** from his. Let us therefore **give diligence to enter** into that rest, lest anyone fall after the same **example of disobedience**. (Hebrews 4:9-11)*

What is **disobedience**?

Disobedience is **refusal to trust** in the good news (Heb 4:2,6)

Disobedience is **hardening the heart** against mercy and kindness (Heb 4:7; Ro 2:4-5)

Disobedience is **working**, taking things into our own hands instead of resting in God's love and care (Heb 4:9-10)

Disobedience happens at the **heart level** (Heb 4:12-13) by **doubting** God's kindness, goodness and unconditional love for us (Ro 2:4-5; Jas 1:6-8).

Disobedience is **not drawing close** to God, confident because we believe He is for us, not against us (Heb 4:16)

What is **my perception of God's disposition** towards me **personally**?

That directly dictates **what kind of reflection emanates** from my life in various situations.

What **suspensions lurk** in my mind and heart about **how God feels about me**?

Exposing and examining these is an effective way to **identify obstacles** inhibiting me from growth.

The light of **truth is objective, not subjective**.

Salvation is about **healing, restoration** of the **authentic image of God** in our hearts and lives.

Sin at its root is our **false perceptions** that **distort God's disposition** towards us.

Do I still **feel God is the source** of my feelings of **guilt, shame and condemnation**?

Ask Spirit to expose the root **causes** of our dark feelings of **foreboding** or **abandonment**.

What compels us to get **defensive**, to resort to **deceiving** people instead of living transparently?

Why does fear have such power over our thinking and imagination?

Facing these fears directly instead of trying to escape them changes the strategic direction of life.

Get out of the hamster wheel of recycling offenses, fears and shame.

If you **feel shame**, you can be absolutely **certain it does not come from God**.

God and shame do not share any commonality. He **despises all shame**. So don't believe **the lie**.

This is where we meet the **core battle position** in our **fight of faith**.

Why do I **succumb to strong feelings** and resort to **whatever offers relief** for them?

I can **choose to cling to what God says** is true that **contradicts my emotions** and fears.

Freedom from sin is **not predicated on feelings** but on **facts outside ourselves**.

Truth is objective, not subjective.

Whatever is **not of faith is sin**. Faith is **trust, believing what God says** over anyone's feelings.

Choosing to **believe the only reliable Source outside** feelings and perceptions does **not make it true**.

Choosing to **believe what God says regardless** of my feelings **opens the door to experience it**.

Do I harbor opinions there has to be **something I have to do** to affect God's disposition towards me?

This is a **signal of unbelief**, despite all our professions to the contrary.

There is **only one thing I have to do** to enter into life, and that is because my **freedom to choose** for myself who I will believe and trust **lies at the center of living in love**.

"Don't work for the food which perishes, but [work] for the food which remains to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For God the Father has sealed him."

They said therefore to him, "What must we do, that we may work the works of God?"

*Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you **believe in him** whom he has sent." (John 6:27-29)*

*Open the gates, that **the righteous nation may enter**: the one which **keeps faith**. You will keep whoever's mind is steadfast in **perfect peace, because he trusts in you**. Trust in Yahweh forever; for in Yah, Yahweh, is an everlasting Rock. (Isaiah 26:2-4)*

*The way of the just is uprightness. You who are upright make the path of the righteous level. Yes, **in the way of your judgments**, Yahweh, have we waited for you. **Your name and your renown** are the desire of our soul. **With my soul have I desired you** in the night. Yes, with my spirit within me will I seek you earnestly; for when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. Let **favor** be shown to the wicked, yet he will **not learn righteousness**. In the land of uprightness he will **deal wrongfully**, and will **not see Yahweh's majesty**. Yahweh, your hand is lifted up, yet **they don't see**; but they will see your zeal for the people, and be **disappointed**. Yes, fire will consume your adversaries. Yahweh, you will ordain **peace for us**, for you have also **worked all our works for us**. Yahweh our God, **other lords** besides you have had dominion over us, but **by you only** will we make mention of your name. (Isaiah 26:7-13)*

***This is the judgment**, that the **light has come** into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and **doesn't come to the light**, lest his works would be exposed. But **he who does the truth comes to the light**, that his works **may be revealed**, that they have **been done in God**." (John 3:19-21)*

***I will* sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will **I cleanse you**. A new heart also will **I give you**, and a new spirit will **I put within you**; and **I will take away** the stony heart out of your flesh, and **I will give you** a heart of flesh. **I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes**, and you shall keep my ordinances, and do them. (Ezekiel 36:25-27)**

*even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus; for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one would boast. For **we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before** that we would **walk in them**.* (Ephesians 2:5-10)

*So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling. For **it is God who works in you** both to will and to work, for his good pleasure.* (Philippians 2:12-13)

*Now the Lord is the Spirit and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty**. But we all, with unveiled face **beholding** as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, even **as from the Lord, the Spirit**.* (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)